The general trade of the port during the year showed a decrease in the tonnage of cargo handled. The total tonnage of imports and exports, which amounted to 779,000 tons, was 173,000 tons, or 18 per cent, less than that of the previous year. In imports of all classes of goods, which totalled 524,000 tons, there was a decrease of 22·85 per cent, while outward cargo showed a general decline of 6·4 per cent. The reduced volume of the import trade and the decrease in the tonnage of shipping arrivals have substantially reduced the port's revenue. The curtailment of the port's normal peace-time trade is, to a large extent, inevitable owing to the war. Markets on the Continent of Europe, normally available, have been lost. The demands on shipping and shipping space for war purposes are heavy, and they naturally have to be given preference over shipping and space for ordinary business. The income of the port for the year registered, in consequence of all these, a fall from the amount anticipated in the estimates for the year. The deficit on the year's working is approximately one lakh of rupees. The incidence of diminished exports and imports necessitated careful consideration of the port's financial position, and the port authorities have, albeit with some degree of reluctance, arrived at the decision to increase the port charges. The increase in the case of Landing and Shipping fees on goods will be 25 per cent, that of Port dues on vessels $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent, and that of Pilotage dues on vessels 50 per cent. The increase has come into effect from 21st July, 1941. It is hoped by those who are responsible for the administration of the port that, with the increased revenue resulting from enhanced port charges, as well as by the exercise of all possible economies on the expenditure side, equilibrium between receipts and expenditure will be established.

STATE RAILWAY

The net earnings to the Cochin Government from the State Railway during the current year amount to Rs. 6,34,609 as against Rs. 4,66,152 in the year 1115. The increase is due partly to the opening of the railway extension and partly to the arrears of coal rebate received from the company for the seven years from 1933 to 1940. The sum so received was Rs. 42,904. The average capital investment on the State Railway for the half-year ended March 1941 was Rs. 117 lakhs. The net earnings expected in the 1117 budget is Rs. 6,10,000. The forecast is based on the figures furnished by the Railway Company and on the experience of the previous years.

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